

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 23, 2022

The State Board of Education met in a regular session at 9:35 a.m. on Thursday June 23, 2022, in the Board Room of the Oliver Hodge Education Building at 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The final agenda was posted at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 22, 2022.

The following were present:

Mr. Brad Clark, General Counsel, State Department of Education
Mr. Travis Jett, General Counsel, State Board of Education
Ms. Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary

Member of the State Board of Education present:

State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister, Chairperson of the Board
Mr. Brian Bobek, Oklahoma City
Mrs. Estela Hernandez, Oklahoma City
Mrs. Jennifer Monies, Oklahoma City
Mr. Trent Smith, Yukon

Member of the State Board of Education not present:

Mrs. Carlisha Williams Bradley, Tulsa
Ms. Sarah Lepak, Claremore

CALL TO ORDER

State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister called the State Board of Education regular meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Ms. Cheadle called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

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

Superintendent Hofmeister 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

Recognition of Department Employee for the month of June: Amy Gibson

Superintendent Hofmeister recognized Amy Gibson, as the June employee of the month for outstanding leadership, professionalism and going above and beyond in meeting the needs of the OSDE.

Superintendent Hofmeister provided updates on the Praxis subject assessments and free test preparation resources; USDE School Climate Transformation Grants impact and success. She said the spring testing window ended, preliminary student-level scores are available, and Parent Portal access available on OSDE website. EngageOK on the Road summer conference begins July 11-20, at seven (7) high school sites with professional development session/trainings and sessions provided by Rebecka Peterson, 2023 Teacher of the Year (TOY).

Recognition of Jessica Eschbach, 2021 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year (TOY)

Superintendent Hofmeister recognized Jessica Eschbach, Norman Public Schools the 2022 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year and said June is her final month to serve as an incredible Ambassador for the teaching profession.

Ms. Eschbach said the experience has fundamentally changed her career, how she views public education and the way she will approach teaching. It has been eye-opening to work with experts to dig into Oklahoma's public education system from different viewpoints. Commended Oklahoma teachers for their amazing innovations, motivation, passion, and uncompromising expertise despite the challenging tumultuous times and attacks on the teaching profession. She thanked the State Board of Education for making an opportunity for Oklahoma teacher(s), every year, as it makes all the difference in the world; and OSDE staff for guidance and support. Her time as Oklahoma TOY has strengthen her resolve to continue working for our teachers and students, and if we work together can make strides toward equitable, high-quality groundbreaking education. Oklahoma teachers leaving the profession at a high rate and not enough new teachers to fill the gaps so we must support, trust educators and value education with proper funding/pay and legislative support. Public education is for every student in the state of Oklahoma, and all deserve a place in our schools.

“ELEVATE” chronicles of the positive, inspiring, and innovative matters in Oklahoma public schools

Superintendent Hofmeister said Hugo Middle School-Hugo Public Schools is an Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) designated school that has one student sub-group performing at or below the bottom 5% when compared to students in the same sub-group statewide. A video was presented highlighting how Principal Veta Massengale and staff are utilizing the OSDE Focused Improvement Plan to make sustainable changes to improve student achievement.

First-Year Superintendents

Superintendent Hoffmeister recognized first-year superintendents attending the meeting included Scott Baade, Chandler Public Schools and Audra Mason, Peckham Public Schools.

CONSENT DOCKET - Approved

Discussion and possible action on the following deregulation applications, statutory waivers, and exemptions for the 2021-2022 school year and other requests:

- (a) Request approval on exceptions to State Board of Education teacher certification regulations to permit issuance of emergency (provisional) certificates - 70 O.S. § 6-187
- (b) Request approval for Muskogee Seventh Day Adventist Christian Academy to participate in the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships for Students with Disabilities program - 70 O.S. § 13-101.2

Board member Monies moved to approve Consent Docket. Board member Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Smith, yes; Ms. Hernandez, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Monies, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

BOARD-ADMINISTRATIVE

Minutes of the May 26, 2022, regular State Board of Education meeting

Board member Monies moved to approve the May 26, 2022, regular meeting minutes. Board member Bobek seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Smith, yes; Ms. Hernandez, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Monies, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

ASSESSMENTS & ACCOUNTABILITY

Recommendation to the Oklahoma Office of Management Enterprises Services (OMES) to award a testing contract(s) for a nationally recognized college-and-career-readiness assessment as a part of the statewide student assessment system – Approved

Cora James, Executive Director of State Assessments, presented the College and Career Ready Assessment (CCRA)-Grade 11 RFP vendor solicitation recommendation for a two-component award that included CCRA U.S. History and Science Assessments and CCRA Math and English Language Assessments (ELA); vendor/supplier bidding and requirements; Oklahoma Management Enterprise System (OMES) RFP training/guidance, review, evaluation, proposal processes and point system

Board members discussed and asked questions regarding Oklahoma School Testing Program (OSTP), College-and-Career-Readiness Assessments/requirements, House Bill 3218, state and federal criteria, peer review, Council of Chief State School Officers guidance, collaborations; OMES vendor anonymity, OMES State Director awards vendor after SBE approval.

Board member Smith moved to approve the recommendation for Oklahoma Office of Management Enterprises Services (OMES) to award a testing contract. Board member Monies seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Ms. Monies, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; Ms. Hernandez, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Monies, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

FY2023 Education Budget

Carolyn Thompson, Chief of Government Affairs/Deputy Chief of Staff, presented the Fiscal Year 2023, legislated House Bill (HB) 2900, 2022 education budget appropriations of \$2,437,246,699 to the State Board of Education. Budget amounts included appropriations for Financial Support of Public Schools, Instruction Materials, Flexible Benefit Allowance, Support of Public School Activities, and Administrative and Support Functions for the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

Board members asked questions and discussed Ms. Thompson's review of the approximate 5.6% increase state appropriations and program descriptions for common education; H.B.1017 additional funding formula appropriations; increase funding for Instruction Materials, Reading Sufficiency Act (RSA), Alternative Education; same FY 21 level funding for Flexible Benefit Allowance (FBA) and OSDE Administrative and Support Functions; H.B. 2900 and Senate Bill (SB) 1067 bill summaries.

(Superintendent Hofmeister called for break at 10:40 a.m. and returned at 10:55 a.m.)

LEGAL SERVICES

Update and discussion regarding Western Heights Public Schools, it's terms and conditions of Accredited with Probation, including financial matters

Update, discussion, and possible action regarding Western Heights Independent School District, and possible to approve, modify and/or deny actions and inactions of Western Heights Public Schools Board of Education at its June 13, 2022, meetings pursuant the terms and conditions of State Intervention and Accredited with Probation as modified on July 12, 2021 – Resolution approved

Brad Clark, General Counsel to the State Department of Education, presented the timeline update on the 14-month financial status at Western Public Schools that included school year audits for 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21, audit findings, deficiencies and negligence's; district responses to findings, state statute violations, 2021 District Court lawsuit; local board membership/authority, superintendent license suspension; federal program violations, banking penalties, and unapproved district expenditures. In summary, during this time the local board and administration's ineffective process to remedying the audit findings, repeated findings, misstatements, inaccurate accounting, irregularities, and illegal acts continued to exist.

Board members asked questions and discussed process and procedures, audit findings and corrective action needed with Brayden Savage, Interim Superintendent; State Board of Education assistance with needs assessment, superintendent certificate licensure parameters, revocation, and prosecution; require all school district audits submitted to OSDE for team review and to the State Auditor and Inspector Office; and hire qualified/experienced Chief Financial Officer; current local board issues continue, June 30 special meeting scheduled and a July 11 regular meeting; and SBE authority and RFP assistance.

(Superintendent Hofmeister called for break at 11:23 a.m. and returned at 11:32 a.m.)

Travis Jett recommended the SBE pass a Resolution for an RFP instructing the Western Heights School Board to retain a qualified accountant for the RFP process working in cooperation with Superintendent Savage and her legal counsel.

Board member Smith moved to accept the Resolution recommendation effective immediately. Board member Monies seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Smith, yes; Ms. Hernandez, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Monies, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

Board member Smith moved, and Board member Monies seconded to approve the Western Heights June 13 actions. Motions were withdrawn as no action was required.

Presentation and discussion regarding the investigative report on Epic Charter Schools

Mr. Clark presented an overview of the Epic Charter School investigative report OSDE released June 21, 2022. The report included complaints filed by Statewide Virtual Charter School as Epic-One-on-One Charter Schools and Rose State College-Epic sponsor; OSDE, SBE, other agencies and Title IX jurisdictions; 2016-2022 school board structures/governance culture and climate; enrollment/attendance reporting, June 2021 staff compensation, bonus payments; board policy, procedure, member responsibilities and authority, state virtual charter violations, and SBE authority; SB244, HB 1395, State Auditor and Inspector Office investigative audit findings, noncompliance/penalties, return of \$9.11 million, and 2019, 2020, 2021 probation status.

Mr. Clark recommended Epic Charter Schools Board be placed on probation.

(Superintendent Hofmeister called for break at 12:50 p.m. and returned at 1:10 p.m.)

Ginger Casper, Vice Chair, Epic Charter School Board, thanked the SBE for the opportunity to use her voice to be informative and not performative. Ms. Casper said the

Epic Charter School mission is to fulfill student's individual potential by personalizing an education plan that focuses on school and family partnership to achieve optimal student performance. The challenging past 13 months of intense work of uncovering and examining the systems and issues empowered the students, teachers, administrators, and executive leadership into a cohesive team. The new leadership commits to bring Epic in line with new aspirations, transparency, and work with OSDE to provide guidance to ensure the policies and procedures are compliant and in the best interest of the school and community. A timeline presented the 2011-2021 transformations of the board, management, finance, communications, legal division, audit, system controls, and input by Deputy Superintendent of Finance.

Board members discussed and asked questions OSDE complaint investigation process/procedure, Epic staff concerns and complaints, Administrator, and local board member rolls, SBE statute requirements, Title IX violations/evidence, Open Meetings Act compliance/violations, student enrollment and attendance algorithm, and directives by Community Strategies.

**Update report on House Bill 1775 complaint filed, and status thereof,
regarding alleged violations of 70 O.S. § 24-157 and administrative
rule prohibiting race and sex discrimination**

Mr. Clark presented an updated report on complaint and violations that incurred a deficiency from Tulsa Public Schools regarding a training audio and contradictions to Title XI and violations of House Bill 1775 permanent rule relating to professional development and staff training provided by a third-party vendor. A review of the complaint was conducted and concluded there was a violation of HB1775. Formal notification has not been sent to the school district; however, the notification letter will inform of the OSDEs deficiency recommendation at the July 28 meeting.

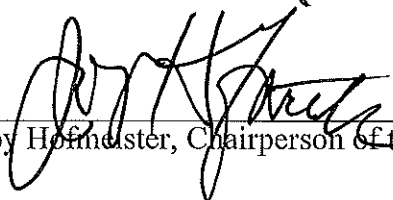
ADJOURNMENT

Board member Hernandez moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:08 p.m. Board member Bobek seconded the motion. Board members unanimously agreed.

July 28, 2022, 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



Joy Holmeister, Chairperson of the Board